

SOCIAL APPROACHES -FINLAND

On Sunday, 1 Aug. Commander Melin Swedish Naval Attache, Departed from Finland upon completion of his tour of duty. In accordance with the custom here, there were a number of Western attaches and diplomats at the dock to bid farewell to Commander Melin. Col. Denisenko and Lt. Kichilov, attaches from the Sov Legation arrived about 15 minutes before sailing time to say farewell to Comm Melin. This is the first time that the Army Attache has seen any of the Soviet Attaches at one of these farewell gatherings.

On 1 Aug. Rear Admiral Koivisto, Commander of the Finnish Naval Forces, celebrated his 50th birthday. According to the Finnish custom, Admiral and Mrs Koivisto held an "at home" in their apartment for officials of the Finnish Defense Forces, the diplomatic corps and their personel friends.

COMMENT; At least two of the Soviet Attaches have attended all of the official functions given in connection with the four Naval visits to Helsinki this summer. They have been friendly and have apparently exerted every effort to be pleasant to the Finns, both military and civilian.

Ref:DA INTELLIGENCE REPORT ID 1256823, Date 3 Aug. 1954

**DIA DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE**